## Message Text

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**ACTION AF-18** 

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 NEA-10 /111 W

----- 112026

R 171056Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6979

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SU

SUBJ: NIMAIRI SIGNS ELECTION LAW

- 1. JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE ON SEVEN-NATION AFRICAN TRIP, PRESIDENT NIMAIRI AUG. 15 SIGNED ELECTION LAW COVERING BOTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND SOUTHERNREGIONAL ASSEMBLY. TEXT OF LAW NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT PRESS REPORTS FOLLOWING DETAILS. (WILL POUCH FULL TEXT WHEN AVAILABLE).
- 2. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: TO CONSIST OF 250 SEATS; 125 ELECTED FROM GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES, 70 ALLOCATED TO COALITION OF "WORKERS FORCES", (GROUPINGS OF FARMERS, LABOR, SOLDIERS, INTELLECTUALS AND NATIONAL CAPITALISTS), 30 ALLOCATED TO "ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS" (NOT YET OTHERWISE DEFINED) AND 25 TO BE APPINTED BY PRESIDENT AS PER CONSTITUTION. ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY 1974 UNDER SUPERVISION OF ELECTORAL COMMITTEE.
- 3. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY: TO BE COMPOSED OF 60 MEMBERS, 30 ELECTED GEOGRAPHICALLY, 21 TO WORKER'S FORCES AND 9 TO ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS. ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER 1974 WITH PROVISIONAL HIGH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE. MEMBERS OF REGIONAL ASSEMBLY CANNOT SIT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

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4. COMMENT: SPECULATION IS THAT BILL RUSHED THROUGH BECAUSE OF

PRESSURE IN SOUTH. ELECTIONS IN SOUTH THEORETICALLY DUE IN LATE SEPTEMBER (EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER SIGNING OF ADDIS AGREEMENT). CONTINUING SILENCE ON ARRANGEMENTS WAS BEGINNING RAISE SOUTHERN DOUBTS AS TO GOS INTENTIONS TO IMPLEMENT. STILL REMAINS BE SEEN WHETHER SOUTH CAN GET ORGANIZED FOR ELECTIONS AS SOON AS NOVEMBER. ALSO WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHO RUNS FOR WHICH BODY--AND WHO TAKES CHANCE ON SEATS SUBJECT TO DIRECT ELECTION. FRITTS

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